

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/779,778

Examiner

Sumaiya A. Chowdhury

Applicant(s)

GOLDSCHMIDT IKI ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-10,12-18 and 20-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


CHRISTOPHER GRANT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gordon Lindeen on 1/29/07.

In claim 9, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

In claim 9, line 2, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

In claim 9, lines 2-3, "a processor of a machine" has been changed to --a computer--.

In claim 10, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

In claim 12, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

In claim 13, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

In claim 14, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

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In claim 15, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

In claim 16, line 1, "machine-readable" has been changed to --computer-readable--.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, and 20-25, are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art reference to Girard (5751282) teaches wherein the headend server supplies the program titles and scheduled viewing times of the past, current, and future programs to the EPG as the viewer scrolls through the menu. When the user selects a program currently being displayed, the headend server provides the program in real-time. If the user selects a program played in the past, the server retrieves and provides a stored video data stream of the selected program. If the user selects a program which will be displayed in the future, the headend server will provide a video clip of the selected program. Furthermore, the program characteristics are displayed, including audio quality (see Fig. 4). Girard fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available entertainment program, and identifying video quality characteristics, as recited in the claim. It is noted although Girard teaches displaying descriptive information (see Fig. 4), a method for highlighting the differences are not disclosed.

The prior art reference to Lawler (5585838) teaches allowing the user to quickly and easily identify programs for viewing. Lawler fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Klosterman (5684525) teaches combining television schedule information received from multiple sources. Klosterman fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Naimpally (6020880) teaches receiving program schedule information from a dedicated EPG server. Although Naimpally displays characteristics of the programs, Naimpally fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Thomas (5666645) teaches a automated data collection subsystem collects EPG data from multiple sources in various formats, filters the data based on the needs of the EPG providers supported, and places the data in a centralized main database in a form suitable to support the different environmental contexts of the EPG providers. Thomas fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Aristides (5657072) teaches wherein program data records which are likely to be requested by the EPGs during peak demand times are transmitted to the subscribers during off-demand times in order to reduce the number of requests made to the headend during the peak time. Aristides fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Zigmond (6698020) teaches providing targeted advertising based on viewer and system information. Zigmond fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive

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information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Hendricks (5734853) teaches creating a user friendly menu based approach to television program access. Hendricks fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

The prior art reference to Hendricks (5798785) teaches assisting subscribers in selecting programs by suggesting programs for viewing. Hendricks fails to teach identifying multiple versions of an available program, and identifying a set of descriptive information regarding the multiple versions, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of video and audio characteristics, and displaying and highlighting the characteristics, as recited in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sumaiya A. Chowdhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-8567. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 9-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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